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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Senator from the State of Oregon.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by whose providence our forebears brought forth this Nation, give to our Senators a passion to protect those liberties for which so many have given their lives to defend. Give them also the wisdom to trust You with all their hearts and to passionately and humbly pursue Your will, knowing that You have promised to direct their paths.

Today, may our lawmakers experience the constancy of Your presence. Guide them with Your higher wisdom, and bring them to the end of this day with their hearts at peace with You.

We pray in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEFF MERKLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 4, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Sen-

ator from the State of Oregon, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. MERKLEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for 2 hours. Senators will be permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the second hour.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Worker, Home Ownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009. Under an agreement reached last night, we will agree to a substitute amendment and at 12:15 proceed to a cloture vote on the bill. At 12:15, we will have a vote. If cloture is invoked, the postcloture debate time will be considered to have begun running as if cloture had been invoked at 11:45 p.m. last night.

### WASTING TIME

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what I just read is a short way of saying we wasted another day. With all the work we have to do, we stood and looked at each other yesterday—30 hours of doing nothing and the ability to move legislation forward. Anybody who has been watching what has taken place in the last 3 years knows the Republicans have become experts in wasting time, the American taxpayers' time, the American people's time.

Yesterday was no different. Yesterday, Republicans used every trick in the book to slow and stall so we couldn't do important work. And 7,000 additional people lost their ability to have a check. It is starting to get cold. It is getting cold in Washington; it was 40 degrees. Maybe people can buy a coat for one of their kids, maybe they can make that payment on the car before it is repossessed, or maybe they can pay their rent before they are evicted. These people have been out of work for a long time, and we are trying to extend unemployment benefits. And it is paid for. We are not borrowing the money to do that. But, no, the Republicans have stalled and stalled. Now more than 200,000 people have lost their ability to get that extra dollar they need. These 200,000 people need help, but Republicans can't be bothered with that. They are stalling, showing everybody they can stall things here. They are doing that.

But I am grateful that the American people watching—two congressional seats were open; there were two special elections yesterday. They were both won by Democrats. Democrats, Independents, and Republicans around the country know what has happened in this body in recent years. Republicans are the party of no. That is why, in New York, a congressional district that for 150 years had been Republican went Democratic. The American people see what is going on in this Congress.

In addition to the unemployment compensation extension being held up, which is paid for—not a penny of taxpayer money is being borrowed—Republicans are standing in the way of giving businesses a tax break. This legislation, when we pass it, will allow businesses—big and little businesses—to take into consideration a tax break. If they have lost money in the last few years, they can get a tax break; that is, to carry forward a loss. They get a benefit from the loss. If they make money, they can set it off against the money

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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